Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Prgramme	Objectives	Details of implementation in Maharashtra
	Scheme	objective of the scheme is to improve the marketability of the SSI products by enhancing their quality.	
5.	Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme	This scheme provides guarantee cover upto 75% of credit (term loan and working capital loan) extended by banks and financial institutions to new and existing SSI units on loans upto Rs. 25 lakh. The scheme is administered by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI) and the member lending institutions (banks, etc.) of CGTSI.	599 proposals were approved for guarantee cover for aggegate credit of Rs. 38.58 crore.
6.	Sub-Contracting Exchanges for Ancillary Development	This scheme is to assist industry associations to strengthen their capacity for securing better marketing opportunities for the member SSI units. Under this scheme, one-time grant of Rs. 4.7 lakh is provided for procurement of capital equipment for setting up of sub-contracting exchanges by industry associations and non-governmental organisations. In addition, matching grant is also provided to meet the running expenses on a tapering basis not exceeding Rs. 1.25 lakh, Rs. 0.75 lakh and Rs. 2.5 lakh respectively during the first 3 years.	6 Sub-contracting exchanges have been set up in Maharashtra by non-governmental organizations/industry associations with the financial assistance of Central Government.

Amount allocated to SSI

3851. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to Small Scale Industries as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the Tenth Five-Year Plan;

(b) the amount to be allocated for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to increase the total allocation to this sector as this can go a long way in solving the unemployment problem?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The total Plan outlay for the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the 10th Five-Year Plan period is Rs. 2200 crore. Plan outlays for the sector are not fixed on the basis of any percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

(b) The process for formulation of the 11th Five-Year Plan is yet to start.

(c) The issue of increased Plan allocation is taken up with the Planning Commission at the time of formulation of each Five-Year Plan as well as each Annual Plan.

Launching of ASTROSAT Project

3852. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved ASTROSAT Project last year;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of this project; and

(c) by when ASTROSAT is going to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main goal of ASTROSAT mission is to launch a space based multiwavelength astronomical observatory for studies in the frontier areas of high energy astronomy and astrophysics. The scientifc objectives include the following:

* Multiwavelength studies of galactic and extra galactic stellar objects by near simultaneous measurement of X-ray, ultraviolet and optical emissions from the sources.
* To study stellar phenomena using the observations covering the wavelength band in visible, ultraviolet, X-rays and gamma-rays regions.
* Detailed study of the spectra of neutron star and black hole binaries, AGNs (Active Galactic Nuclei), SNRs (Supernova Remnants) etc.
* High sensitivity timing observations of periodic and aperiodic variations.
* Detection and study of pulsars.